# Appendix E Environmental Checklist Initial Study



# **APPENDIX E**

# **Environmental Checklist Initial Study**

1. Project Title: North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve

Land Management Plan

2. Lead Agency Name and Address: California Department of Fish and Game

1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4599

**3. Contact Person and Phone Number:** Armand Gonzales (916) 358-2876

**4. Project Location:** North Table Mountain, Butte County

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: California Department of Fish and Game

1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4599

6. General Plan Designation(s): N/A

7. Zoning Designation(s): Grazing & Open Land

**8. Description of Project:** See attached Draft North Table Mountain

Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan

**9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** See attached Draft North Table Mountain

Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan

10. Other public agencies whose approval

is required:

None

# **Environmental Factors Potentially Affected**

The proposed project could potentially affect the environmental factor(s) checked below. The following pages present a more detailed checklist and discussion of each environmental factor.							
Aesti Biolo Haza Mine Publi Utiliti	hetics  gical Resources  ards and Hazardous Materials  ral Resources  ic Services  es and Service Systems		Agriculture Resources Cultural Resources Hydrology and Water Quality Noise Recreation Mandatory Findings of Significance	ce		Air Quality Geology, Soils and Seismicity Land Use and Land Use Plannin Population and Housing Transportation and Traffic	
⊠ I a	find that the proposed pro	ject .RA	COULD NOT have a signiture of the court of t	ficar	nt e	effect on the environment,	
e p	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.						
☐ I	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.						
l st a:	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.						
er ir (t D	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, no further environmental documentation is required.						
Signatur	idialione unar. More	y	Date	1/5	1	06	
Printed N	rinted Name For						

# **Environmental Checklist**

# **Aesthetics**

		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant				
	es (and Supporting Information Sources):	Impact	Incorporation	Impact	No Impact			
1.	AESTHETICS—Would the project:							
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?							
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway corridor?							
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				$\boxtimes$			
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?							
Di	scussion							
Re See	Proposed project would not have an impact on the environment with regard to these questions.  References  See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.  Agricultural Resources  Less Than Significant							
Issu	es (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact			
2.	2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:							
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?							
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?							

Issi	ues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact			
c)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use?							
Di	scussion							
Pro	pposed project would not have an impact on the	ne environme	ent with regard	d to these que	estions.			
Re	eferences							
Se	e attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecolog	gical Reserve	e Land Manag	ement Plan.				
Ai	r Quality							
	·		Less Than					
Issi	ues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact			
3.	AIR QUALITY  Where available, the significance criteria established by district may be relied upon to make the following determ			ement or air po	llution control			
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				$\boxtimes$			
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?							
c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?							
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				$\boxtimes$			
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				$\boxtimes$			
Di	scussion							
Pro	Proposed project would not have an impact on the environment with regard to these questions.							
Re	References							
Sec	See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.							

# **Biological Resources**

Issı	ues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
4.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES— Would the project:				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				

#### **Discussion**

- a) Proposed project would be a continuation of historic grazing management which could impact individuals of special-status and sensitive plant species but which has been proven to be necessary for maintaining self-sustaining populations of those species.
- b) Proposed project is a continuation of historic grazing management and no other actions are contemplated.
- c) Proposed project is a continuation of historic grazing management and no other actions are contemplated.
- d) Proposed project is a continuation of historic grazing management and no other actions are contemplated.
- e) Proposed project is a continuation of historic grazing management and no other actions are contemplated.

С	ultural Resources				
lssı	ues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
5.	CULTURAL RESOURCES— Would the project:				
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?				$\boxtimes$
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				
c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				
d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				$\boxtimes$
Di	scussion				
quo ma gui	The proposed project would not have an impestions. No site alteration will be allowed prior nagement action will be allowed at a cultural adelines. Sites will be protected by site closure the location will not be disclosed to the public at	r to a survey site, and any s should van	for cultural fea action will fol dalism or artif	atures; no de low archeolo act collection	trimental ogical
Re	eferences				
Se	e attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecolog	gical Reserve	Land Manage	ement Plan.	

# Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

Issu	ies (a	nd Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
6.	GE	OLOGY, SOILS, AND SEISMICITY— uld the project:				
a)	adv	pose people or structures to potential substantial erse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or th involving:				
	i)	Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.)				
	ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?				$\boxtimes$
	iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
	iv)	Landslides?			$\boxtimes$	
b)	Res	sult in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				$\boxtimes$
c)	that and	located on geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or it would become unstable as a result of the project, if potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral leading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?				
d)	Tab	located on expansive soil, as defined in ole 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), ating substantial risks to life or property?				
e)	of s	ve soils incapable of adequately supporting the use septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal tems where sewers are not available for the posal of wastewater?				
Di	scı	ussion				
a.i)	1	No delineated Alquist-Priolo fault is pres	ent.			
a.ii	)	No known faults.				
a.ii	i)	No known faults.				
a.iv	7)	Small potential for personal injury landsl	ides due to n	atural weather	ring of basalt	cap.
b)		Proposed project would not constitute ph	ysical chang	es to the envir	onment.	
c)		Small potential for landslides due to natu	ral weatherii	ng of basalt ca	p.	
d)		No expansive soils are present.				
e)		No disposal of wastewater is proposed.				

#### References

See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.

## Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Issı	ues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
7.	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:				
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				

#### **Discussion**

a-g) Proposed project would not have an impact on the environment with regard to these questions.

h) Proposed grazing management would maintain grass fuel loads at low levels and public use of the site would largely be confined to the wet season when there is no risk of wildfire.

# References

See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.

# Hydrology and Water Quality

Issi	ues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
8.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY— Would the project:				
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				
b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a site or area through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or by other means, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				
d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of a site or area through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or, by other means, substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?				
e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				
f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				$\boxtimes$
g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other authoritative flood hazard delineation map?				
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?				$\boxtimes$
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				
j)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				

## **Discussion**

Proposed project would not have an impact on the environment with regard to these questions.

## References

See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Manageme	ent Plan.
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Land Use and Land Use Planni	n	Q
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Issu	ues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact			
9.	LAND USE AND LAND USE PLANNING— Would the project:							
a)	Physically divide an established community?							
b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?							
c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?							
Discussion								
a) ]	No communities are present.							
b) :	b) No conflicts are present.							
c) ]	c) No habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan is applicable.							

## References

See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.

# Mineral Resources

Issu	ues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
10.	MINERAL RESOURCES—Would the project:				
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				

## **Discussion**

Proposed project would not have an impact on the environment with regard to these questions.

#### References

See attached Draft North	Table Mountain	Ecological Reserve	e Land Management Plan.

# Noise

Issu	ues (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
11.	NOISE—Would the project:				
a)	Result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				
b)	Result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				
c)	Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
d)	Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan area, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, in an area within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels?				
f)	For a project located in the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				

## **Discussion**

Proposed project would not have an impact on the environment with regard to these questions.

## References

See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.

# Population and Housing

		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant		
Issu	es (and Supporting Information Sources):	Impact	Incorporation	Impact	No Impact	
12.	POPULATION AND HOUSING— Would the project:					
a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?					
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?					
c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?					
Di	scussion					
Pro	posed project would not have an impact on the	ne environme	nt with regard	to these ques	stions.	
References  See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.  Public Services  Less Than						
			Significant			
		Potentially Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant		
	es (and Supporting Information Sources):		Significant with		No Impact	
a)	PUBLIC SERVICES— Would the project:  Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the need for, new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public	Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Significant	No Impact	
	PUBLIC SERVICES— Would the project:  Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the need for, new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:	Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Significant		
	PUBLIC SERVICES— Would the project:  Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the need for, new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:  i) Fire protection?	Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Significant		
	PUBLIC SERVICES— Would the project:  Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the need for, new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:	Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Significant		
	PUBLIC SERVICES— Would the project:  Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the need for, new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:  i) Fire protection?	Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Significant		

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Proposed project would not have an impact on the environment with regard to these questions.

#### References

See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.

# Recreation

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
14.	RECREATION—Would the project:				
a)	Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated?				
b)	Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				

#### **Discussion**

Proposed project would be a continuation of historic grazing management and outdoor recreational activities.

#### References

See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.

# Transportation and Traffic

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):		Potentially Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
15.	TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC— Would the project:				
a)	Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume-to-capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?				

Less Than

Issu	es (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact			
b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?							
c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?							
d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?							
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?				$\boxtimes$			
f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?				$\boxtimes$			
g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., conflict with policies promoting bus turnouts, bicycle racks, etc.)?							
Di	scussion							
Re	Proposed project would be a continuation of historic grazing management and outdoor recreational activities.  References  See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.  Utilities and Service Systems  Less Than							
•		Potentially Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	Ma farance			
	es (and Supporting Information Sources):  UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS—Would the	Impact	Incorporation	Impact	No Impact			
10.	project:							
a)	Conflict with wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				$\boxtimes$			
b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?							
c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities, or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?							
d)	Require new or expanded water supply resources or entitlements?				$\boxtimes$			

Issu	es (and Supporting Information Sources):	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	
e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that would serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?					
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?					
g)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?					
Di	scussion					
	posed project would be a continuation of historeational activities.	oric grazing 1	nanagement a	nd outdoor		
Re	eferences					
See	e attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecolog	ical Reserve	Land Manage	ment Plan.		
M	Mandatory Findings of Significance  Less Than Significant With Less Than Significant With Mitigation Significant					
	es (and Supporting Information Sources):  MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE—	Impact	Incorporation	Impact	No Impact	
a)	Would the project:  Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?					
b)	Have impacts that would be individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)					
c)	Have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?					

#### **Discussion**

- a) Proposed project would be a continuation of historic grazing management which could impact individuals of special-status and sensitive plant species but which has been proven to be necessary for maintaining self-sustaining populations of those species.
- b) Proposed project would be a continuation of historic grazing management and no other actions are contemplated.
- c) None.

#### References

See attached Draft North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve Land Management Plan.